

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office action dated September 1, 2005, setting forth a shortened three month statutory period for reply expiring on December 1, 2005.

Claims 1-12 were pending in the application, with claims 1, 4 and 11 being independent claims. In brief review, the Examiner objected to the drawings as having non-uniform thicknesses for lines, numbers and letters of Figs. 1-6; objected to the abstract; and objected to claims 2-3 as having informalities. The Examiner also rejected claims 1-2, 4, 9 and 12 as anticipated under 35 U.S.C. 102 to Lacey et al, U.S. Patent No. 5,486,107 (hereinafter the Lacey patent). The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5-8 and 10-11 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

By this Amendment, claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 10 and 11 have been amended and claims 3, 5 have been cancelled without prejudice. Accordingly, claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 are now pending with claims 1, 4, 6, 10, 11 and 12 being independent claims. Reconsideration of the application and claims is respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO DRAWING OBJECTIONS

The Examiner objected to Figs. 1-6 in that the drawings have non-uniform thicknesses for lines, numbers and letters. It is noted that non-publication of the application was requested and granted, and that the drawings are suitable for examination purposes. Replacement drawings will be provided in a separate submission to the PTO.

RESPONSE TO OBJECTION TO THE ABSTRACT

A new Abstract is submitted herewith and is believed to comply with MPEP 608.01(b). Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

RESPONSE TO INFORMALITIES IN CLAIMS 2-3

The Examiner objected to claims 2-3 as having informalities. Claim 2 has been amended to correct the informality, and claim 3 has been canceled. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that claims 3, 5-8 and 10-11 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

Accordingly, as to claim 3, the limitations of claim 3 have been included into independent claim 1 and claim 3 has been canceled; the limitations of claim 5 have been included into independent claim 4 and claim 5 has been canceled; claim 6 has been re-written in independent form, and claims 7-8 depend therefrom; claim 9 depends from independent claim 4; claim 10 has been re-written in independent form; claim 11 has been re-written in independent form.

CLAIM 12

The Examiner rejected claim 12 as being anticipated by the Lacey patent. Claim 12 as amended recites in part "configuring the input buffer to operate substantially as an inverter in a normal mode; configuring the input buffer to operate substantially to limit internal voltage levels in a live insertion mode; configuring the input buffer to prevent an over-voltage condition; and configuring the input buffer to allow a hot-plug operation." The Lacey patent is not understood to teach or suggest these limitations, and accordingly claim 12 is believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, claims 1-2, 4, 6-8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 remain in the application and are believed to be allowable.

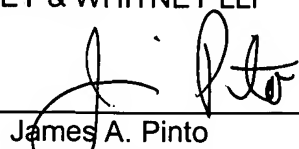
No further fees are believed to be due with this Amendment beyond the fee of \$600 for the presentation of 3 additional independent claims, provided herein; however, if any additional fees are required, please consider this a petition therefore and please charge such fees to Deposit Account number 04-1415.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: December 1, 2005

By



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